



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Istook Works to Protect Marriage**

*Washington, DC* – Representative Ernest Istook (R-Warr Acres) was joined today by the rest of the Oklahoma delegation to the House of Representatives in sending a letter to Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert and Majority Leader John Boehner to protect the sanctity of marriage.

**"Out of control judicial activism threatens the institution of marriage in America,"** said Istook. **"The Marriage Protection Amendment is a common sense solution to this problem and I support this amendment."**

Currently, 20 states now have constitutional amendments protecting marriage as solely between a man and a woman. 25 other states have statutes designed to protect traditional marriage by defining marriage only as the union of a man and a woman. Only five states have no statutory or constitutional protection for traditional marriage (Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, and Rhode Island). The issue is on the ballot in another five states during this election cycle. (*Source: US Senate Republican Policy Committee*)

Today's letter urges Speaker Hastert and Majority Leader Boehner to allow the U.S. as a whole to vote to preserve this sacred institution.

Text of the letter:

June 14, 2006

Dear Speaker Hastert and Majority Leader Boehner:

We urge you to bring the Marriage Protection Amendment (H. J. Res. 88) to the floor for a vote this year. The Marriage Protection Amendment would limit marriage to the union of a man and a woman.

The Amendment enjoys the support of over 100 Members of Congress who have cosponsored it, and the amendment also enjoys widespread support across America. Twenty states have already passed constitutional amendments protecting marriage and the issue is on the ballot in at least six states during this election cycle.

The Marriage Protection Amendment simply states:

Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution, nor the constitution of any State, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman.

Families and children deserve the protection that the Marriage Protection Amendment provides. The best home for children is one with a mom and a dad. Single parents work valiantly to raise their children, but it is a struggle whenever a child does not have both a

mom and a dad at home. Our laws should recognize and promote that stability in our homes.

Voting on this amendment would give us the opportunity to stand up both for marriage, and also for the people's right to govern themselves. It is sad that a constitutional amendment is necessary, but without it we fear that Americans will be under endless assault by those who want to destroy traditional marriage.

The Senate has already voted on this important issue this year, and the House of Representatives should be on record as well. We urge you to recognize the importance of this issue for families, and bring the Marriage Protection Amendment up to the floor of the House of Representatives for a vote.

Very truly yours,

Ernest J. Istook Jr.  
Member of Congress

Frank D. Lucas  
Member of Congress

John Sullivan  
Member of Congress

Tom Cole  
Member of Congress

Dan Boren  
Member of Congress